

between the House of Assembly and the Council, it is necessary to point out the possible,—and we wish it were only possible,—cases in which a hostile attitude between both houses seems inevitable. The House of Assembly claims, in its representative character, to be the guardian of the public Exchequer, to originate money bills, to direct the appropriation of money grants, and to retain exclusive legislation on fiscal matters. If the Lower House claims this exclusive privilege from its representative character, can it refuse the same privilege to the Upper House, now that it is to be constituted on the same principle. It cannot, and if it would, that would be stultifying itself, if the prerogative be assumed on the ground that it was elected by the people,—a prerogative no longer a monopoly, but shared in common with the Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council will have the same right if election by the people confer it on the Lower House. It is a right conferred by the same body on its representatives; both branches will be elected, and both inherit the same privileges. It is here that we dread a collision, much worse than the "dead lock" of last Session, on the appropriation of £25,000 for public buildings at Quebec. For we maintain that the constitution of the Upper House, as being elective, is a direct repudiation of the principle, that the Legislative Council cannot originate money grants, or interfere with the detail of a money bill, though now they may reject them as a whole. There are other points on which both Houses are likely to come into collision, and it had been well if the framers of the new constitution for the Upper House had anticipated them by a little prudent legislation. The act was long enough under consideration to have all reasonable hindrances to its successful operation obviated. As it now stands, more will depend on the prudence and good sense of the Legislative Council for the harmony and utility of its operation than on its provision.

ENGLAND.

THE DREADFUL ACCIDENT AT THE SURREY GARDENS.—The service commenced with an extemporaneous prayer from Mr. Spurgeon, after which a hymn from Dr. Ripon's collection was sung by the whole congregation. The preacher now read a chapter from the Old Testament, after which he commenced another extemporaneous prayer, and proceeded without interruption for some minutes. He was going on in his peculiar style, when a sudden three persons rose as nearly as possible in the body of the hall, and raising their arms aloft, called out in a loud voice, "Fire!" "Fire!" "The building!" "The building!" An instantaneous rush to the doors and windows took place. The occupants of the galleries pressed forward in wild confusion towards the staircases, of which there is one at each corner of the hall. The great pressure was at the north-western corner, and here all the fatal casualties occurred. The first, second and third galleries are all arranged to open into one staircase, and when the alarm of fire was given the occupants of each, terrified at the thought of being confined within the building, pressed madly on to the staircase, until the latter became completely choked up with a dense mass of human beings—all intent on self-preservation, and actuated by that powerful incentive, adding each moment to the horrors of the scene. In such a struggle the weakest of course were soon trampled down, and it can be no matter of surprise that with a thousand panic-stricken creatures, all pressing from above, those on the lower flights of the staircase should speedily be crushed and trodden under foot. Three bodies were taken from a space not six feet square in this corner of the building, and two others were picked up within a very short distance. All this was the work of a few minutes only—following immediately on the first alarm. No serious casualty occurred from any of the subsequent disturbances. All the mischief had been accomplished in the first five minutes.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.—There cannot be the slightest doubt that the shocking catastrophe which occurred at the Surrey Gardens, on Sunday last, was the result of a pre-organised scheme between thieves and swell-mobsters. Every precaution had been taken by the authorities of Mr. Spurgeon's congregation to avoid accidents of any kind; tickets had been distributed to the members, by which they were to be entitled to pass through a reserved door until six o'clock, when the general mob were to be admitted. Before half-past five, however, the barriers which had been constructed to keep the mob from this door were swept away, and the whole concourse pressed tumultuously into the building. The early part of the proceedings were conducted amid solemn and reverential silence, and it was not until the second prayer that the heartless wretches, who had so skillfully laid their plans, commenced operations. Well distributed about the hall, they whispered to those sitting by their sides the alarming intelligence that the building was on fire. Terrified shrieks almost immediately startled the audience, and a very perceptible smell of something burning gave too much reason to apprehend the worst consequences. This effect was produced by setting fire to little pieces of rags in various parts of the hall, and dropping them smouldering to the ground, the operators being concealed by their surrounding confederates. This device of miscreants utterly regardless of the destruction of human life, which every one must have foreseen would inevitably result from a panic among such a mass, was completely successful. The scene that followed has already been described.

After order had been in a great degree restored, and Mr. Spurgeon had resumed his address, a man, coster-monger in appearance, rose in the centre of the body of the hall, and shouted—"If you don't all run out, you'll be burnt alive." Almost every one will deplore that Lynch law was not the immediate reward of this fiend. Again crowds fled to the door, and confusion and fear filled every breast. The host of people swayed to and fro, in terrified disorder, and carried off their feet, were borne along with resistless force. Hymn books, bibles, ladies' shawls, mantles, scarfs and hats, strewn the floor; while the crash of windows, the stamping of feet, the shrieks of women, and the groans of the injured—all combined to create a scene scarcely ever paralleled in a place of worship.

It is due to Mr. Spurgeon to make the fact known that he was never favourable to the renting of the Music-hall. As he has been very freely censured for what has been considered his own exclusive act, it is but bare justice to make the public aware that his deacons have had the management of the affair. But of course the sad issue of the undertaking could not have been foreseen by those gentlemen.

MR. SPURGEON.—Such a calamitous occurrence has had a most distressing effect on the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon's family. The whole of them are suffering the greatest distress of mind from such an untoward occurrence, and it is feared that the rev. gentleman's health and mind will be affected by it. He is labouring under such excitement that we were informed yesterday, on calling at his residence, No. 3, Bengal-place, New Kent-road, it had been found necessary to remove him to the country, and that in all probability a considerable period must elapse before the reverend gentleman will (if he ever can) resume his ministerial duties.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL.—The statement which has appeared in some of our contemporaries, to the effect that Lord John Russell is at present in Paris, is, we believe, incorrect. The noble lord is, at this moment, we understand, at Florence, where he has taken a villa until the spring, and where he has been joined within the last few days by his noble relative the Earl of Minto.—Manchester Guardian.

ANOTHER CONGRESS IN PARIS.—The re-assembling, as it is somewhat inaccurately called, of the Paris Congress is now a matter of immediate certainty. The former negotiators will not re-appear upon the scene, but the work of negotiation is to be forwarded as briskly as before. To this issue the course of affairs has for some time past been manifestly tending. Before the meeting of this supplemental Congress, however, the question, slightly mooted in February last, will be again pressed, with greater urgency, respecting the admission of the minor states of Germany to participate in the Conference.

By an imperial ukase the Protestant and Roman Catholic chaplains attached to the Russian army, are henceforth placed on an equal footing as regards state pay, &c., with those of the Greek church.

Original Poetry.

[FOR THE EXAMINER.]

Traveller from the burning shore  
Fiery thought has wandered o'er—  
Companion of the welling sigh—  
Warm, generous, noble Tear;  
In tender, graceful sympathy  
You gentle solace bear;  
To heart affliction's currents wear,  
And shed at couch of woe,  
The mourner feels an honest tear  
Can hallow'd balm bestow.

Sweet offspring of compassion's thrill,  
Poured out for woe-worn child of ill—  
Pale dewy Tear—soft, mildly meek  
Mute messenger—you come,  
And, eloquently bemoaning, speak  
With more than mortal tongue.  
Thy silent soothing sweets impart  
And smite the bitter throe,  
As heart with feeling beats to heart,  
Disarming cruel woe.

Stern o'er the carnage-reeking plain,  
Heaped and strown with mangled slain,  
As warrior bounding on his way,  
Slippery with human gore,  
The feeling of his heart will sway  
And stir its very core;  
For friend and foeman in their blood  
And agony and cry,  
Mingling with battle's raging flood,  
Drops tears of sympathy.

Soft pity's ever hallow'd gem—  
Of bosom feeling's diadem—  
Bright pilgrim Tear; as orient morn  
The dungeon'd captives' cheer,  
Thy kindly beam to poor forlorn  
Comes lightning thick despair.  
Thy godlike spirit's heavenly dew  
From noblest natures flow,  
And Pity pities who refuse  
A tear for other's woe.

WERAND.

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., NOVEMBER 17, 1856.  
THE REPRESENTATION BILL.

The Obstructive faction, who, for so many years, wielded the destinies of this country, but whose power and prestige have passed away forever—have hitherto placed so much dependence on the influence of the land proprietors at the Colonial Office, that they surely calculated upon obstructing, before it reached the Throne, every measure which received the sanction of the Colonial Legislature, and which, they imagined, had the smallest tendency to clash with their interests. This scheme of interesting the proprietors, by means of petitions and secret correspondence, has been long tried, and in some instances with success; but proprietary and obstructive influence, like pride, will sometimes have a fall; and never, perhaps, did it meet with a more signal break-down than when it sought, on a recent occasion, to destroy the Representation Bill passed last session. The petition to the Queen, having that interesting object in view, appeared some months ago in the columns of the Obstructive organ, and flaming panegyrics as to the necessity and propriety of the thing embellished the editorial department of another journal which does not seem to have quite made up its mind as to whether it will totally abandon the declining fortunes of the Obstructives, or see if anything is to be gained by occasionally straddling the fence. At that time, our readers may remember, we characterised the petition as a puerile and ridiculous outburst of Tory indignation—perfectly harmless, save to those who had the pains of trotting about the country to secure to it the signatures of a few dozen of Her Majesty's lieges—not scorning the mark of him who happened to be totally ignorant of the contents of the document, nor unwilling to receive the assumed autograph of the interesting young gentleman or lady of very tender years, just being initiated into the mysteries of pot-hooks and hangers; and we distinctly stated our conviction that the British Government would not suffer itself to be influenced by a disappointed and irresponsible faction, to contravene the decision of our two Houses of Legislature, in reference to a measure so essentially local and so general in its application as an Election Law. If it were a measure which was calculated to press injuriously upon any particular class in the community, there would be some reason to petition against it, and there is no doubt the Imperial authorities would give the petition the fullest and most favourable consideration. But we do not hesitate to say, that if the Bill under consideration had been disallowed, by reason of the Tory petition, all future legislation in the Colony would be nugatory and farcical; for if the Opposition failed to arrest the progress of any measure through the Assembly—no matter how trifling and unimportant the measure might be—the precedent once established, they could appeal to the Colonial Office against it, with the most perfect confidence that their application would be successful. The Tories have learned an important lesson by the failure of their recent obstructive movement—they have been made to understand how little they are thought of in England—how insignificant and contemptible is the influence of the proprietors, on which they so much depended; and it is to be hoped they will have sense enough hereafter to confine their obstructive operations exclusively to the Colony—save the Colonial Office from unnecessary annoyance—themselves from that humiliation which is certain to accompany failure and defeat—and protect the Colony from the disgrace that would alight upon it, should strangers abroad perceive that so small a country contained so many fools.

Our venerable friend the Recorder has favoured that infinitesimal portion of the world who read his lucubrations, with an expression of his very sagacious opinions, printed in *Haszard's Gazette*, of Saturday last, on the prospects of an immediate dissolution of the Assembly. According to this eminent authority, a general election must take place either before the Lieutenant Governor receives a despatch formally announcing Her Majesty's assent to the Representation Bill, or so soon after that only the "shortest possible time" will be allowed to "all who are anxious for a fair and honest representation of the country." We have many times had occasion to shew that when this Sir Oracle openeth his mouth upon matters of law, he makes such an exhibition of himself that dogs as well as men become wrapt in such mute astonishment as to be quite unable to give expression to their feelings. We

would fain hope, for the benefit of his clients—if he be fortunate enough to have any beyond the Corporation who appear to place little value upon his opinions—that the learned gentleman's knowledge of law in general is much more accurate and extensive than it appears to be with respect to one particular Act of our Legislature; for if he had read the new Election Law through, he must have noticed at the bottom of it a provision as to the time when it should go into operation. For his own edification, and for that of the few individuals who may be misled by his twaddle, we beg to quote the section which contains this provision:—

"Nothing in this Act shall have any force or effect until Her Majesty's assent thereto shall be made known, and notification thereof published in the *Royal Gazette*, nor until the expiration or dissolution of the present House of Assembly."

Any person who is capable of reading and understanding the English language, will at once perceive that it is not only not incumbent upon His Excellency to dissolve the present Assembly on the new Election Bill becoming law, but that framers of the measure intended that its passage should not necessitate a dissolution; and this intention, we think, they have sufficiently well expressed.

It is quite amusing to perceive how anxious the Tories pretend to be for a general election. Perhaps the Government will condescend to oblige them in this respect sooner than many of them really wish—sooner than will be agreeable to some of their tools and cads in the present Assembly, who, after the dissolution, will be left to sing in rather dolorous tones—

"Who will fill our vacant places?"

While the Bill was going through, and after it passed the Assembly, the Tories were frantic and desperate in their efforts to destroy it, because, as they alleged, the supporters and members of the Government had cut and carved out the new districts to serve their own purposes, and give them an undue preponderance in the new House. If such were the object, and such be the result of the Bill going into operation, the Government cannot too soon advise His Excellency to a dissolution, and instead of manifesting a solicitude for its advent, the Tories should pray the gods—if they think the prayers of the wicked can ever avail—to avert as long as possible so calamitous an occurrence. But perhaps they are of opinion with the man who was going to be hanged, that the sooner they are put out of pain the better. For our own part, we care not how soon an election may take place. We should not be sorry to see the writ issued to-morrow, for we know the country too well to doubt for a moment that the issue would be eminently satisfactory to the party in power; and an election would teach some gentlemen in the present House who never would have sat there but for the votes and influence of the Liberals—how certainly apostasy and direktion of principle are rewarded with condemnation and contempt.

The editor and his conscience-stricken friends remind us of the story of the soldier undergoing punishment, who requested the drummer to apply the lash now higher, now lower. "Faith, my lad, I find there's no pleasing you, strike where I will," was the reply at last extorted from the scourge-bearing vindicator of military rule. So it is with the Tories, with reference to the Representation Bill. When it had met all their opposition in the Legislature, a mighty effort was made to get up a petition to the Queen, praying the royal assent to be withheld. We were told that the Bill was uncalled-for by the people—that it had been hurried through the House of Assembly with indecent haste—that it was devised with a sole view to keep the Liberals in power—that it would entail great additional expense on the country, and many other notes of woe did the ravens utter to defeat the Bill. Well, the friends of the measure are under obligations to the petitioners for the trouble they took, as the result of their endeavours has been, that an earlier notice than would have otherwise been received has been given of the fact, that the Bill will be allowed. Now this does not please them unless this odious Bill be acted on without delay, and a new election take place forthwith, which would involve the continuance of the Liberals in power—the great additional expense—the ruin of the country, and all the other evils which were to emanate from this Pandora's box. The desire expressed by the editor of *Haszard's Gazette*, that the Bill be acted on forthwith—as it indicates a marvellous affection for the once detested object of his present love—may, in all fairness, be attributed to the salutary nature of the Bill itself, which in this instance wounded but now heals; and the redoubtable champion, John Lawson, Esquire, has shared a fate similar to that of the Greek whose wound was made whole by the rust of the spear by which it had been inflicted.

We seldom concur in the views expressed by *Haszard's Gazette*, but it happens that in the editorial above noticed, the old gentleman who does its penny-a-lining, has given utterance to an opinion which we most cheerfully endorse:

"To us, individually," he says, "it is a matter of no moment who the parties are who may be entrusted with the reins of government, provided that the right men are in the right places, and that there is a chance that such may be the case, we are willing to hope. There is a great amount of growing intelligence about the rising generation, and if they be not taken by surprise or misled by false representations, they may send men into the House that will have nothing but the good of the public in view."

There is another point on which we have the felicity to concur with our venerable friend. Alluding to certain sources of corruption in cases of election contests, he says, "it is not the fashion—for want of means probably—to offer pecuniary bribes" to electors. True enough. The practice went out of fashion here about five years ago, when the Tories ceased to have access to the people's money-box. It was a very conspicuous feature in the celebrated Brackley Point election in 1848, when the present Colonial Secretary had all the Tory shopkeepers and officials arrayed against him, because, rash man! he had the hardihood to call his soul his own, and to pursue a line in local politics opposed to the views and interests of the Compact. It was then the fashion, indeed, to offer bribes, in the shape of money, casks of rum, barrels of flour, bags of bread, &c., to any and every unprincipled wretch who could be seduced to vote, in opposition to his better judgment, for the nominee of the official clique, who was bound to sell his soul and wear the livery of the Compact, in return for the honour of being sent to the Assembly by means of prostituted votes. It is not the fashion now, indeed, to offer pecuniary bribes. The Liberals could never be taught to adopt it; and the Tories have discovered, since their loss of office, such excellent uses for their private funds, that the degraded slaves who, in days past, drank their liquor and ate their bread, can no longer calculate on being gorged at the expense of their former feeders.

The following is a copy of the Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, recently forwarded to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, in answer to the Petition of the Obstructives, praying for the disallowance of the Representation Bill. The high and constitutional tone of this document renders it eminently worthy of an extensive publication; and we trust it will be regarded as a useful lesson for the future by those who, during the past, have been so much in the practice of labouring to obstruct measures which "received the deliberate sanction of the Colonial Legislature." There is a quiet dignity in the face to the Obstructives, figuratively speaking, about this expression of the Colonial Minister, which it is really delightful to behold:—

Sir; [Copy No. 34.]

I have to acknowledge your Despatch No. 45, of the 18th September, enclosing a Petition to the Queen from divers inhabitants of Prince Edward Island, praying, for the reasons therein set forth, that Her Majesty's sanction be withheld from the "Act to increase the number of Members to serve in the General Assembly, and to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Elections."

You will inform the Petitioners that their objections to this Act have been attentively considered, but that I have not felt myself at liberty to advise Her Majesty to interfere with a measure which has received the deliberate sanction of the Colonial Legislature.

The Act will, therefore, be allowed on the first opportunity of a Council being held. I have, &c.,

H. LABOUCHERE.  
Lieutenant Governor Sir D. Daly, P. E. Island.  
Downing Street, 15th October, 1856.

NO TROOPS.

THE following communication appeared in the last *Royal Gazette*, by the authority of the City Council, as containing the answer to the application of that body for a Detachment of Troops for the Charlottetown Barracks, from the large force recently sent to the British Provinces. The rule laid down by the Imperial Government for refusing the application of the City authorities, may appear sound and satisfactory enough at the Horse Guards, but to intelligent people on this side of the Atlantic it will appear as a shallow pretext for denying the Colony an advantage which the sister Provinces are permitted to enjoy. We have no doubt there are very many sections of the Empire, both at home and abroad, where detachments of military will be found, without being greatly at variance with the interests of the communities in which they are stationed, or "injurious to the discipline of the Troops." We are free to admit that for the purposes of police, the presence of troops is entirely unnecessary, for our internal tranquillity is secure enough in the loyalty and good sense of our population; and as for foreign foes, so long as Britain remains at peace with our republican neighbours, there will be no call for defensive operations. We must confess, then, our belief, that a very mercenary motive prompted the desire for troops. It was not the men our respected townsmen valued most, but the dollars that were expended in feeding them; and since these cannot be had, let us humbly and patiently hope that Charlottetown may thrive as well—be as prosperous, moral and religious, as if she had a whole regiment within her precincts, to swell the coffers of a few shopkeepers, and make love to their daughters.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, Prince Edward Island,  
8th November, 1856.

Sir.—The Lieutenant Governor has presented to him by the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Charlottetown, on the subject of stationing a detachment of Troops in Prince Edward Island, I am directed by His Excellency to inform you that he has received a reply to the effect, that—"The Secretary of State is unable to perceive any sufficient grounds to warrant Her Majesty's Government in departing from the rule which has been laid down, of not stationing Troops in small detachments in particular Colonies for the purposes of Police, rather than of military defence—a practice which experience has proved to be injurious to the discipline of the Troops and at variance with the real interests of the Colonies."

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
M. B. DALY, Private Sec'y.

His Worship the Mayor, &c. &c. &c.

We intended to have offered our acknowledgments to the doating old man at New London for some favours shown us in the columns of the last *Islander*; but our columns had been already nearly filled when the paper came to hand. It takes the *Islander* only four weeks to reply to the arguments of the EXAMINER, which it does in the most approved Billingsgate style; and we trust our readers will agree with us, that the matter is not so very urgent, that the abuse of the *Islander* may remain unnoticed for a few days.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—"A Belfastier," and a "Souris man," came too late for insertion, but will appear in our next No.

The following has been handed to us by a gentleman who occasionally attends political and other meetings in disguise, in order that he may report proceedings. We are assured that, had he been recognized, he would not have been able to furnish any account of the meetings of the Holy Alliance, whose proceedings are strictly confined to themselves, as he believes, from fear of meeting with any answers to their speakers. Having, however, been "incog," he was enabled to profit by the occasion, and to afford a report of—but we hasten to give publicity to his short-hand notes, as we know the public are desirous to learn something of the matter.

(*Loquitor*) distinguished member, "Gentlemen," said he, "I know no subject which could occupy you, in any manner, so interesting as that to which it is my duty to draw your attention. When a worm is trodden on, it is said, the helpless creature will still turn on its oppressor; how then can we sit idle when a monstrous conspiracy is formed to cut off from us the means of our very existence. Not many suns have gone down since—in quiet possession of the Government of the Colony, and all the avenues to importance and emolument—we could snap our fingers at reformers; had the distribution of patronage and money, and defied the Governor, the Legislature, and the Devil. Ensnored in our own official elbow-chairs, who was to call us to account? In those halcyon days, no auditors presumed to pry into the privacy of our transactions. The House of Assembly met, indeed met annually, but the laws that were passed were to be finally enacted or rejected, as we might recommend. Having no seats in the Houses, we were saved from the impertinence of being asked inquisitive questions as to our accounts, our measures and our designs. Gentlemen—all know and deeply feel the injury that has been inflicted, by an upstart Ministry, on our private as well as public affairs. Every one of you has a private interest in this subject; for which of you has not felt the want of a friend in office, who could provide with a snug investment in Warrants at six per cent., when now you cannot even get them at five? What is it to you, Gentlemen, that the general public saves several hundreds per annum by this change? The money was better spent when divided amongst friends, than to promote an innovating system of education, which bids fair to enable every man in the country to set up for a legislator, and exercise an impertinent influence over public affairs. How true was the words of the poet who said, 'When ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise.'" These tyros in education are, to a damnable degree, proving the old adage, "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing." Above all, it is a public scandal that the